

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7992

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1948

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PGOV, SHUM, CI, AU

SUBJECT: CHILE PROTEST GROUP ASKS RECALL OF AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR
FROM SANTIAGO

1. AUSTRIA'S CHILE SOLIDARITY FRONT HAS FOUND PRESENT
AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE WANTING AND IS DEMANDING HIS
RECALL. SOLIDARITY FRONT, LED BY FORMER CATHOLIC PRIEST
(JOHANN BERGER) WHO WORKED IN CHILE, COMPRISES SEVERAL
LEFTIST AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS. FRONT RECENTLY TOLD
FOREIGN MINISTER BIELKA THAT IT WAS INTOLERABLE FOR
AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR ANTON SEGUR-CEBANAC TO REMAIN IN
SANTIAGO BECAUSE HIS ACCEPTANCE OF CHILEAN COURT VERDICTS
IS PARAMOUNT TO CONDONING CURRENT SENSE OF LEGAL INSECURITY
IN CHILE.

2. AMBASSADOR SEGUR-CEBANAC WAS RECENTLY REPORTED BY
AUSTRIAN PAPERS TO HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT MISUSE OF RIGHT
OF ASYLUM AT AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO AND MORE
RECENTLY TO HAVE CLAIMED CURRENT APPLICANT FOR ASYLUM,
PENAILLIO ROMERO, IS
ACTUALLY A CONVICT. BIELKA PROMISED THAT PENAILLIO WOULD
NOT BE SURRENDERED TO CHILEAN AUTHORITIES, FOR WHICH
FRONT EXPRESSED ITS APPRECIATION.

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3. COMMENT: IRONICALLY, SEGUR- CABANAC WAS SENT TO CHILE IN 1974 AS PART OF EFFORT TO AVOID FURTHER TROUBLE WITH AUSTRIAN CRITICS OF CHILEAN JUNTA AFTER AMBASSADOR ALFRED HOBEL WAS RECALLED FOR HAVING BEEN INSUFFICIENTLY COOPERATIVE IN SHELTERING PERSECUTEES IN AUSTRIAN EMBASSY. MFA OFFICIALS HAD TOLD EMBOFFS EARLIER THAT THEY WERE SKEPTICAL OF BONA FIDES OF SOME ALLEGED PERSECUTEES AND DISMAYED THAT GOA'S PROBLEM IN SANTIAGO ONLY GREW AS ACQUISITION OF SAFE CONDUCT FOR ONE PERSON GENERATED NEW REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM. SEGUR-CABANAC'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS WERE APPARENTLY STIMULATED BY LOWER-LEVEL MFA OFFICIALS IN CALCULATED EFFORT TO HELP CREATE MORE OBJECTIVE VIEW IN AUSTRIA ABOUT EMBASSY'S PROBLEMS IN SANTIAGO AND TO SECURE SUPPORT FOR ACTIONS THAT MIGHT REDUCE AND CONTAIN PROBLEM OF QUESTIONABLE REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM.

4. WE UNDERSTAND FROM MFA SOURCES THAT FOMMIN BIELA TENDS TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO DEMANDS FOR AMBASSADOR'S TRANSFER. AUSTRIAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, WHICH IS OVER-WHELMINGLY TRADITIONAL-CONSERVATIVE IN OUTLOOK, HAS MOUNTED IN-HOUSE DEFENSE OF AMBASSADOR'S ACTIONS. MFA PROFESSIONAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION IS DRAFTING LETTER TO FONMIN DESCRIBING AMBASSADOR'S ACTION TO STOP MISUSE OF RIGHT OF POLITICAL ASYLUM AS BEING IN ACCORD WITH GENERAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES AND IN INTEREST OF AUSTRIA. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT MFA PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION PREPARED TO GO PUBLIC OVER MATTER, IF NECESSARY, TO COUNTER FONMIN PREDILECTIONS. BUCHANAN

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